

ELECTION OF SPECIES

Applicants elect the embodiment of the invention as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, characterized as "Species 1," for immediate examination.

IDENTIFICATION OF CLAIMS ENCOMPASSING THE ELECTED SPECIES

Claims 1 – 29 and 31 encompass Species 1.

REMARKS

Election was required in the office action between three species of the invention alleged to be patentably distinct, namely,

Species 1	illustrated in Figures 1 and 2
Species 2	illustrated in Figure 18
Species 3	illustrated in Figure 19

Applicants have herein elected the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, denominated as Species 1.

Claims 1-29 and 31 encompass Species 1, for the following reasons.

Claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 29 clearly and indisputably read onto Figs 1 and 2.

Claim 8 reads on to Figs 1 and 2 because there is a large axial spacing in Fig 1, and because the ability of the flexible rod to move axially in the cavity is described in paragraphs [0041] and [0042] of the published document.

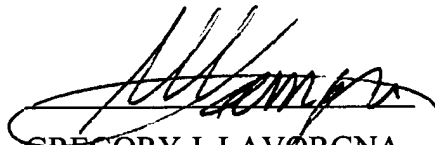
Claim 9 reads on to Figs 1 and 2, as the bore in Fig 1 is wider than the flexible rod - a spacing is visible in Figs 1 and 2. Also, the final two sentences of paragraph [0043] of the application as published supports this.

Claim 31 reads on to Figs 1 and 2, because the feature of the flexible component being free to move axially, laterally and rotationally is shown in Figs 1 and 2, and is described with reference to the Fig 1 device (see the final two sentences in paragraph [0043] on page 3 of the application as published).

Hence, for the foregoing reasons, claims 1 to 29 and 31 all read on to Species 1. The Applicant requests examination on the merits of claims 1 to 29 and 31.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Lavoorgna', is written over a horizontal line.

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